



## Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact [support@jstor.org](mailto:support@jstor.org).

to their intelligence." In analyzing the bimodal curve, it was found that those who had completed at least the 5th B grade in the schools formed a curve which paralleled very closely the curve of the Cincinnati fifteen-year-old group. Those who had not succeeded in making this much progress were the majority of those who collected around the lower mode.

The comparison of the standard group and this group of Bedford women results frequently to the disadvantage of the latter. In reference to some of the tests the statement is made, "*We may therefore set it down with some finality that approximately 40 per cent. of the Bedford group are decidedly less efficient in whatever these tests measure than is the average Cincinnati working girl of fifteen.*" How much more efficient the so-called normal group would be when they had reached the same age as the Bedford women, the report does not attempt to estimate. When the working girl was re-tested at age of fifteen, she surpassed her previous record in every phase of every test. If this progress is continuous for the succeeding five or six years, "there are very few of the type of criminal woman that is sentenced to a Reformatory such as Bedford, who are normal adults in the mental characteristics and abilities measured by these tests."

Let us conclude the review in the words of the Editor's preface: "The results are of prime importance both to workers with mental tests and to practical penologists who seek to individualize punishment in such a manner as to meet the needs of the offender as well as the needs of the offense."

Municipal Court, Philadelphia

DAVID MITCHELL.

---

THE FORENSIC SIGNIFICANCE OF THE INHERITANCE OF MORPHOLOGIC ABNORMALITIES AND OF FINGER PRINT CHARACTERISTICS. By R. Sommer. *Archiv-f. Kriminologie*, 1916, Band 67, pp. 161-174.

Sommer cites the case of J. T. who was accused by N. C. of being the father of her illegitimate child. J. T.'s persistent denial and the persistent accusations of the girl led to a call for experts.

The evidence presented bore on the physical similarity between the supposed father J. T. and the child, the most damaging of which appeared to be the existence of syndactylism in both. With J. T. this abnormality involved the second and third toes of the right foot, and possibly also the same toes of the left. With the child B. C. it involved the second and third toes, not only of the right foot, but also most markedly of the left.

In discussing this point, Sommer mentions the possibility of this coincidental occurrence being merely accidental. He substantiates this fact by indicating the lack of similarity between the photographs of the supposed father and the child, especially as regards forehead formation.

As to the value of similarity of finger prints, which had previously been taken for the purpose of tracing familial relationship, there were doubts.

Sommer was then given an opportunity of interviewing personally both J. T. and B. C. Not satisfied with only the data thus obtained he also secured an interview with the legitimate son of J. T. The result of this investigation led Sommer to conclude that a *single* morphological abnormality possessed in common is of no particular significance as evidence of kinship, unless presented in connection with a great deal of other information of the same sort.

But the examination of the finger prints of J. T. and B. C. showed a striking resemblance in the papillary formations of three fingers in each of both pairs of hands. In other words, 3/5 of the finger print evidence pointed toward relationship, and 2/5 toward its absence. The question raised, however, is: What comparative evidence would be obtained from a similar examination of the finger prints obtained from an hereditarily related and from an hereditarily unrelated group of people. These data Sommer gathered (though fragmentary), with the result that greater similarity was observable in *unrelated* than in related cases. He therefore concluded that also this index of relationship was an unreliable one, though admitting that finger print characteristics may behave as Mendelian units, hybrids not necessarily showing any similarity to the parents. Omitting speculation of this kind, the existing facts led Sommer to conclude that the finger print evidence presented in the case was of no particular value in tracing the relationship between J. T. and B. C., if such existed.

A comparison of head formation, eye color, hair color, etc., also led to negative results.

On the basis of Sommer's evidence J. T. was set free.

In the remaining portion of the article he gives statistics explaining that syndactylism is sex-linked, transmitted only through male members of a family, and promises another article, to appear soon, dealing with the inheritance of finger print characteristics.

Buckel Foundation, Stanford University.

SAMUEL C. KOHS.

---

CRIMINALITY AND ECONOMIC CONDITIONS. By *William Adrian Bongers*: The Modern Criminal Science Series. Little, Brown & Co., Boston, 1916, pp. xxii, 700.

This is the eighth number of the Modern Criminal Science Series published under the auspices of the American Institute of Criminal Law and Criminology. It is a stout volume of 700 pages, including the comprehensive bibliography of works cited, and contains an *Editorial Preface* by Edward Lindsey and an *Introduction* by Frank H. Norcross, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Nevada and Vice-President of the American Institute of Criminal Law and Criminology. The fact of its being translated and printed as one of the Modern Criminal Science Series is sufficient reason for its careful consideration by all who are interested in the causes and eradication of crime.

The plan of the volume is as follows: Part I relates to a "Critical Exposition of the Literature Dealing with the Relation between Crim-